(c) whether the Navy has assessed the shortage of civilian manpower at 31 percent of its total requirements?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Against the sanctioned civilian complement of 48,998 personnel, the borne strength of civilians in Navy is 40,242 and the current shortage is 8756 personnel. The shortages vary in different units and establishments but the overall shortage is approximately 17.87% of the total strength.

Nearly 71% of the civilians are performing operational, technical and logistic support functions in Naval Dockyards and Ship/Aircraft Repair Yards. Shortage of civilian technical manpower is likely to affect the smooth functioning of these Units which are looking after the maintenance of warships and equipments. However, the shortages of civilians are being tackled by filling up the vacancies in accordance with the existing instructions issued by the Government.

The total manpower requirements for various shore based units of Naval Base at Karwar is estimated as 2901 personnel. Out of this, 1541 posts have already been sanctioned and recruitment of personnel is under process. The remaining 1360 posts required for Ship Intermediate Maintenance Authority (SIMA)/Naval Ship Repair Yard (NSRY) which includes 1219 civilian personnel is yet to be sanctioned by the Government.

Agreement with US to rescue submarines in distress

4380. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and US have agreed to reach an agreement for American assistance for Indian naval submarines which are in distress and for purchase for submarine rescue vehicles;

(b) if so; what are main decisions US has taken to improve submarines for Indian Navy;

(c) whether any agreement in this regard has been reached between the two countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) to what extent US Navy has been able to aid Indian submarines which were in distress; and

(f) to what extent this will help to improve the capability and shortcomings of Indian Naval forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f) India and US have agreed to reach an agreement for American assistance for Indian Naval Submarines which are in distress to facilitate rescue of crew members from a disabled submarine. There are no plans to procure submarine rescue vehilces from US.

The agreement is only restricted to utilising the US Navy's Global Submarine Rescue Flyaway Kit to facilitate rescue of personnel from disabled submarines and not for augmenting the capability of the existing submarines in the Indian Navy.

No such situation has arisen, where the need existed to actually utilize the US Navy's Global Flyaway Rescue Kit for submarine rescue operation.

Corruption in Armed Forces

†4381. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the news of increasing corruption in all the three wings of armed forces has tarnished its image;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to the above said reasons the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.